

## Introduction and platform for running for Council Member of the CAAA

Hello, my name is Michael McFarlane. I have been a registered acupuncturist in good standing since 2005 and I am excited to be now running for council. I held the position of treasurer for the Acupuncture Society of Alberta as it transitioned into the College, and since the formation of the College I have held positions on the Bylaws Committee, and the Conduct and Competency Committee (CCC). Being involved in the regulation of our profession has given me insight into some of the needs that face our profession now, and moving forward.

In addition to this, I have been involved in the education of future acupuncturists as an instructor for the Grant McEwan University acupuncture program (2005-2017) and currently as an instructor for the Calgary College of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture. As such, I have an understanding of what future acupuncturists want and need to become successful in this field.

My main focus in running for council is the need of our profession to transition to the Health Professions Act (HPA) from the Health Disciplines Act (HDA). During this COVID pandemic, our profession was the only regulated health profession to be excluded from Stage 1 because we are not yet under the HPA. This not only put our profession at a disadvantage, but also gives the public the impression that we are not as important or as valid as the other health care professions under the HPA. This is a blow to our credibility and needs to be rectified.

My second goal is to address the increase in complaints to the CCC. My plan for accomplishing this is through supporting the development of continuing education programs that address the most commonly seen issues. By supporting our membership through continued education, we can reduce the number of complaints, as well as reduce the associated cost increases that they cause for our College.

I believe that by working together we can improve the standing of our profession in the eyes of Albertans and the government, and in so doing, help get acupuncture the recognition it deserves as a valid health care profession. I look forward to the chance to serve as a member council and help propel our profession forward.

Best Regards,

Michael McFarlane, B.Sc., R.Ac.